

Date

Mr. Bobby L. Madison, Sr.  
Clayton Chief of Police  
101 Shandy Ln.  
Clayton, La. 71326

**Re: Board Docket No. 2016-673**

Dear Chief Madison:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its August 19, 2016 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion regarding whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prohibit you a newly elected Chief of Police from hiring the Mayor's sister, Minnie Turner. You provided that you would like to hire Ms. Turner to serve as your clerk. Ms. Turner is the sister of the newly elected Mayor Josephine Taylor Washington. You stated that you have full power to hire, fire and set the salary of the police department employees without approval of the Board of Alderman or the Mayor.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to advise you that, under the facts presented, La. R.S. 42:1119A would not prohibit Ms. Turner from being employed by the Clayton Police Department. La. R.S. 42:1119A provides that "No member of the immediate family of an agency head shall be employed in his agency." Since the Clayton Police Department would be Ms. Turner's agency she would not be employed in her immediate family members agency. However, the Board instructed me to inform you that La. R.S. 42:1112B(1) would prohibit Mayor Washington from participating in a transaction with her governmental entity in which Ms. Turner has a substantial economic interest.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,  
**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

Suzanne Quinlan Mooney  
For the Board

cc. Mayor Josephine Washington